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THE BEDLAM FILES

Right now we find ourselves at a time of year marked by three things: gluttony, exploitation (in every conceivable permutation), and [Yukio Mishima](#). (? See below.)

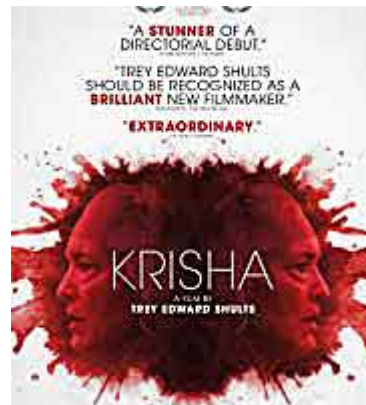
Happy Thanksgiving!

13 Films To Put You Off Your Thanksgiving Dinner



1. **BLOOD FREAK (1972)**

One of my most beloved bad movie faves, an astounding Christian-themed splat-fest about a dweeby Elvis wannabe who imbibes some kind of super marijuana and becomes a turkey monster. As such he flaps around the countryside, killing and drinking the blood of drug-addicted teens until he's eventually saved through his faith in the Lord. No, I'm not making any of this up.



8. **KRISHA (2015)**

Another American indie that uses Thanksgiving in service of a quirky—and quite intense—depiction of family angst. The film suffers from the fact that its disaffected-old-woman-turning-her-family's-Thanksgiving-upside-down narrative is hopelessly clichéd, but the verve and audacity of the filmmaking is without parallel, as are the performances, pulled off by actual family members.



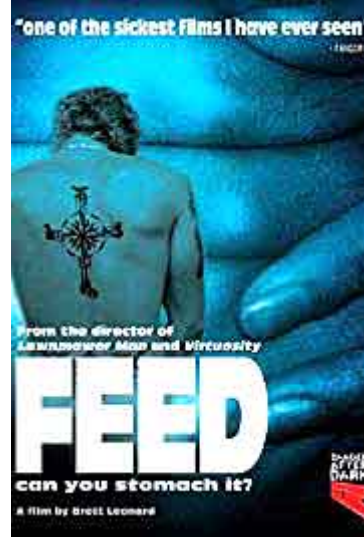
2. GRINDHOUSE (2007)

This one is included for one reason: it contains the **Eli Roth** directed trailer for a nonexistent seventies-sploiter called THANKSGIVING. Closely patterned on the actual **HALLOWEEN** trailer, THANKSGIVING, about a madman on a turkey day prowling (*"White meat, dark meat...all will be carved!"*), does a better job aping the look and style of grindhouse cinema than GRINDHOUSE'S two main features, PLANET TERROR and DEATH PROOF. Plus, if you don't like what Roth has provided there's always the rest of the movie, which provides a thoroughly enjoyable three-plus hours of deliberately archaic, sleaze-packed joy.



3. THE ICE STORM (1997)

The foremost feel-bad Thanksgiving movie of our time! On display is a pitiless exploration of moral ennui during the swingerific seventies, which as portrayed in this



9. FEED (2005)

In which a 600-pound woman—a *gainer*—is force fed junk food by a mother-obsessed freak—a *feeder*—who displays the gainer's naked body on a web site so people can bet on when she's going to die. The film contains a memorable performance by **Gabby Millgate** (wearing an all-too-convincing prosthetic fat suit) as the gainer, and overall stands as a uniquely repugnant example of food-nography.



10. ALIEN ABDUCTION: INCIDENT IN LAKE COUNTY (1998)

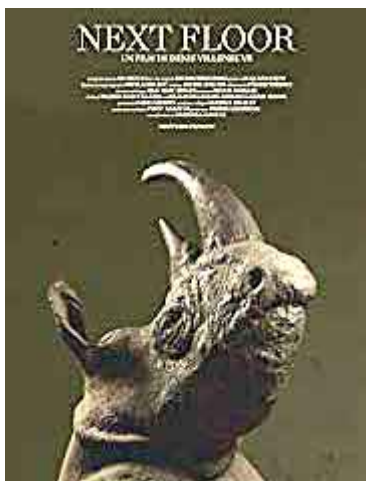
This bloated but affecting found footage horror fest predated both **THE LAST BROADCAST** and **THE BLAIR WITCH PROJECT**. It's a remake of the 1989 pic **U.F.O. ABDUCTION**, which is a much tighter and more effective effort, but this easier-to-find redo, which takes the form of a home video made by a young man as aliens crash

unnervingly cold, clinical drama were anything but swinging.



4. THE STEPFATHER (1987)

Thanksgiving provides the setting for one of the most memorable scenes of this brisk and efficient eighties thriller, about a psychopath willing to kill for the Perfect Family. A “family” film we can all get behind!



5. NEXT FLOOR (2008)

Unchecked gluttony is the subject of this eleven minute short from Quebec, in which a pack of elegantly attired slobs ecstatically chow down an assortment of disgusting-looking meats, only to continually fall through the floor and land on another one below, forcing the attending servers and musicians to uproot themselves and head down the stairs to regroup. Make of this bizarre spectacle what you will, but I think we can all agree that it's a

his Thanksgiving dinner, is not entirely without worth.



11. PAT BOONE AND FAMILY THANKSGIVING SPECIAL (1978)

Now you *knew* I wasn't going to get through this listing without mentioning a goofy 1970s TV special. This one comes courtesy of Pat Boone, who appears with his late wife and very photogenic teen daughters in a succession of downright pukeable song and dance numbers, goofy skits involving Bob Hope and the Hudson Brothers, and a heartwarming Thanksgiving dinner in which Pat lectures us on the importance of togetherness and family in what is guaranteed to be the longest 36 minutes of your life.



12. 11.25: THE DAY MISHIMA CHOSE HIS OWN FATE (2012)

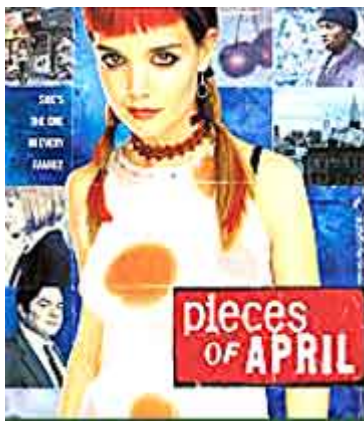
A rather plodding but still effective dramatization of the final days of

particularly gross, fascinating and quite brilliant piece of work.



6. **LE GRANDE BOUFFE (1973)**

Another study of gluttony, a French-Italian provocation in which four bourgeoisie slobs shut themselves up in a sumptuous villa and gorge themselves to death. Not as gross or as subversive as you may have heard, but LE GRANDE BOUFFE is an eye-opener without question.



7. **PIECES OF APRIL (2003)**

The best of the many early-00's Thanksgiving-themed indies (others include **WHAT'S COOKING?**, **TADPOLE** and **FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION**), a funny, cynical and quite endearing depiction of a screwed-up young woman (**Katie Holmes** in her finest-ever screen turn) attempting to get a turkey cooked in time for you-know-what.

Japan's **Yukio Mishima**, who in late 1970 committed *seppuku* (ritual suicide) after attempting to overthrow the Japanese government. The fact that Mishima carried out his actions on November 25, a time when we yanks celebrate Thanksgiving, was entirely coincidental...*or was it?*

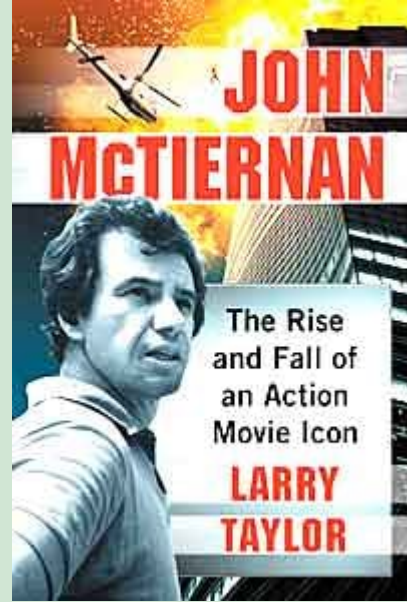


13. **BLOOD RAGE (1987)**

Not much of a movie, but still probably the best Thanksgiving-themed horror-fest to emerge from the eighties slasher cycle (*i.e.* it's better than the deadly **HOME SWEET HOME**). BLOOD RAGE also offers an engagingly perverse twist on the standard slasher movie narrative, with the brother of an escaped mental patient embarking on a turkey day murder spree.



- **UFO Abduction**
- **Nomads**
- **Air Crew**
- **John McTiernan: The Rise and Fall of an Action Movie Icon**
- **A Tale of Two Terminators**
- **On Einstein on the Beach**



WTF?

The Bedlam fact-of-the-month concerns **Roman Polanski's** alleged filming of **Daphne Du Maurier's REBECCA**. According to an account in **Christopher Sandford's POLANSKI**, Roman Polanski is rumored to have snuck into the US in 1991 and shot the adaptation in question at the Beverly Hills home of the billionaire computer magnate Max Palevsky, with Warren Beatty, Angelica Huston and Nicole Kidman in the main roles.

Complete bullcrap? Most likely, although the details provided by Sandford are tantalizingly specific and names are named.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Polanski', written in a cursive style.

I'm done reading. To the website!

The Bedlam Files

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